

App. 10

A Girl's Fair Inheritance.

1. Her Dwelling.
2. Her Pleasure -
3. The Inmates of her Dwelling.
4. The Furnishing of her Dwelling.
5. Her Morning Room.
6. Her Summer Parlor.
7. Her Refectory.
8. The Nursery of her Dwelling.
9. Her Dainty Drawing room.
10. Her Estate.
11. Her Tenants at Will.
12. Her Responsibilities as Proprietor.

190-200023

A Girl's Fair Inheritance.

I. Her Dwelling.

It's delicious to be at home for good! How kind father is! Not in the folly way he used to the mind in the holidays, but now, he pays me little attention, & speaks in the tone he always uses to ladies, especially to mother. And dear mother! It's really funny, the way she makes much over. "Has Miss Proctor everything she wants, Bates?" she will say, in her grand' tone, as if I were a distinguished visitor. All the same, I don't feel different. I want to laugh, & say, "Can this little old woman be 9?" - and because my skirts are cut short, but because they have grown to impossibly long - the skirts going dignifiedly down.

The oddest new thing is, the way I am left to myself. nobody says, "Do this," "Don't do that." But people are polit interested about whatever I do or say. I feel like a great-heiress come into her fortune. I believe that is it. I have come into my inheritance. My friends are waiting to see how I use it. "Aye, there's the rub!" I have my part to play; & it seems to me I must do it for myself & by myself. Well, I will "endeavor myself"; as the Prayer Book puts it.

No one can look after an inheritance who has not first taken stock of his possessions: i.e., to begin with the dwelling. . . . It does mean the

7.30 a.m.

I have spent ten minutes before the glass, & fancy
not ashamed to look it down. for really, there was
no vanity in to exercise. I was only taking stock
of my dwelling, "in home I live in," as a little
book of physiology used to learn, ^{was} as called.
Father has insisted that I should learn something
of physiology & the laws of health since I was quite
a little girl. "It's all nonsense to talk of health
as a blessing, & open your mouth to receive it;
health is a duty, which every child should be brought
up to fulfil!" - is the cor - of thing he is fond of saying.
~~therefore to get the opportunity.~~ Another pet saying
of his is, "A serviceable body, now pleasant to behold,
~~that is~~ ^{now} parts of every ones duty to his neighbour;" &
then he will enlarge upon the miseries afterward,
blundering, fumbling folk & when they will
~~fail~~ their help in emergencies.

It is with these two sayings of father's in view
that I have been putting myself under critical survey-
my outside self, I mean. The result is satisfactory.
One people are handicapped by poor physiques defects
& overcome them in a wonderful way - like Alice
Bates who ~~though~~ ^{she} has no fingers on her right-
hand, only a thumb, & yet can sew & write with
beautifully. See I have no such defect. Thank God,
& though less no beauty, perhaps I am, as Mrs.
Brander used to say, "A wholesome & pleasant - to
look at;" because I am healthy & happy, I
suppose.

A healthy body, a serviceable body, now pleasant to
behold - that will clothe the present by way of a 'blue
teapot' - to 'live up to!' A healthy body there, but
how to keep it, is the question. Until now, these

* been living by rule, a wise rule, framed with this end.

" I consider I have failed in the education of a girl whom I don't send out with a good, or, at any rate, a pretty improved physique; - I heard Mrs. Brander remark to father. But now, I'm afraid I am my own mistress in this matter. It's well I know how to get about the duty. My education comes in here, though. Moreover, it's rather hard to find how little I know. All the shop purchases are too long to write, but I shall just jot down a few rules:-

Mem: Must not - long in eye or easy chair for more than ten minutes, or so, at-a-time.

Must not - sit-down to a novel for more than half an hour, say, at-a-time, for the sake of eyes & nerves.

Must do an hour or two of vigorous study every day, not reading, but - finding out, learning, writing digests, this, for several reasons; but, with regard to health, for the sake of keeping off all sorts of nervous disorders.

Does not eat - too much, nor look out - for nice things; nor allow myself more than one or two sweetmeats, or one day.

Must brush my teeth after each meal; must not drink hot things; must wait, if possible, to drink until then finished eating.

Such points as much open-air exercise, a daily bath, much rubbing, &c., I am not - likely to forget.

A Considerable body: Hints: - " Throw perception into all you do."

" Household motions light & free;"

" Endurance, forethought, strength, & skill;"

Mem: Must - for no chance of helping in the house, then mother or the maids. Must - learn, & get leave to practice

• practice every kind of housework. Must be ready for all children's mishaps - burns, cuts, bruises. Must be no chance of parting a parcel, or doing a mischief. Must set about household duties briskly, cheerfully, quietly. Must bear aches & pains with a cheerful countenance. Must do one or two laborious tasks every day to feel strong & robust. Must undertake one or two delicate tasks for the sake of learning skill. Must not let myself be clumsy.

Body pleasing & look at. Mein. Skin at all times must be clean. ~~Don't attend to personal needs daily - to many persons allow themselves to have hands with quite clean~~ Must not begrudge the time spent in hair-brushing. Will always need to read the Psalms for the day while he was dressing, all the time he was busy about 'Emancipation'. Tonight do something of the kind. Must not allow myself in ungraceful or slothful postures. There! I doubt there is much besides, but for the present, I shall aim at keeping these few rules in the management of 'my dwelling'.



19th June 1883

A Girl's Fair Inheritance.

II. Her Pleasures -

Out of the house, into the garden! It is but a step, yet I am uncertain about taking that step. Ought I to have a garden? And, if I ought, how large should it be? & how should I lay it out. Father says, "Every girl should be large enough to include a pleasure-ground." That ~~suffices~~ ^{suffices} little to first question: I may have a garden; now, to lay it out in lawns & flower-beds. But, first, I must set a hedge about it; or my pleasure-ground may spread over the whole estate. That is a ~~mistake we girls make~~, more over that pleasure is ~~good~~, ~~the pleasure makes up for it~~. No girl loses her head sooner than I do, up with a born dairy, hard & fast; that I may make no blunder as to which is ploughed land & which play-ground.

First, pleasure should be recreation; should make, create us again when we are used up with work. I think I understand that, thanks to physiology lessons: some from very substance wastes away with real work, either bodily strain, we miss that has gone out-of-us, & feel languid tired. Therefore, we must allow time for recreation, that is, practically, for new growth to replace that has

MAY 10th 1882

has been worn out, from losses. This new growth
takes place very quickly; when we have made up our
losses, & are ready for work again, we feel fresh as
daisies & gay as larks.

I begin to see my way. Pleasures which recreate, which
help nature to make good the waste caused by even a
few hours' work, & leaves us feeling bright & fresh, are
as right & necessary as well as delightful. But very
are pleasures of another sort, which instead of recreating
waste our substances - the substance of our bodies, in
~~reduces living~~, leaving us unable for the next day's work.
These, I think, are not lawful pleasures, but dissipation.
~~dissipation~~ is only another word for waste.

Now, go to "application": What pleasures shall I choose?
though, ~~after all~~, we don't have much choice. Pleasures
are true without our seeking, and take what we get &
are thankful. Still, we can say, "No," or "Yes," to the
offers we get; ~~that~~ much I mean to do. See already
that if a girl lays herself open to every pleasure, ~~any~~
people kindly put in her way, she may do something else. If
she has no time left to be her own mistress or her neighbour's
servant; other last, shop to the. I downcast to "Tatlerina"
as the poor people say, both at home & outside.

But howlander! Let me set down as
clearly as I can, the sort of pleasures I should
choose. First it is a great help to have made
up your mind beforehand; so when you give
people a plain reason for not doing as they wish
they are generally satisfied. At the same time, mother
says

Says I must - not - be brusque in my refusal, cannot
be careful not to give offence. Somewhere, but I will
~~formless, the calls obtainable! wonder is the right?~~
~~nothing is favorably right!~~

Lawn tennis, of course: nothing can be better than free
exercise in the open air. It is fortunate when the
right thing is the thing you like. Now, who would
keep a pleasure-ground under lock & key for his private
use? My pleasures must be family pleasures &
neighbourly pleasures. I must play with the children
with friends who happens to come in, must not
let myself be drawn into sets of good players,
tournaments, what sort of thing. They used to say
at school that I played well; but it does not do to
be 'wild' about tennis; it takes up too much of
one's time & thoughts. I wonder how it would do to
comes upon callers - young people - to play, shuttlecock
or Indian clubs in the hall in bad weather, tennis
or cricket - when it is fit? I'm afraid I am a baby
about - play; but it - really is, that I want to fit in,
also, a good day's work every day
Perhaps a rule, not to begin play from 5 o'clock - till
about - your 6 o'clock in the summer, would be useful.
Studies + household duties ... in the morning, needlework,
drawing, & practising in the afternoon, besides
whatever outside duties may come to me. One might
get an hour or two for the new books in the evening;
not novels, unless for relaxation after dinner.
Country rambles with an object - or delicious.
I shall begin at once to make a collection of

1898

of the wild flowers to be found about here; & shall teach
the children the little botany I know. So that we
may have grand expeditions, hunting for Gaura
Ovens, Fritillary, & all sorts of things. It would
not be a bad plan in winter to walk off to some
good point of view, & describe the scene afterwards
in writing; indeed, that is a good idea for all the
year round; how nice it would be to have
written descriptions of the spots we care most
for should we ever come to leave home! For
instance, I know a spot with three lovely birches,
just like Mrs. Whittier's "Three Graces"; the
~~children might join in this too.~~

Summer amusements of the right-kind are easily
arranged for; but what is to be said about the cold
hours of the crowded, close, concert-a lecture-rooms
in the winter? Well, suppose the mind must
have its recreation as well as the body, & now
idear are a real refreshment. Farming, too,
is capital exercise. But — dancing help the
night through in close rooms? — Most likely
fathers another will settle his difficulty ^{by} a rule.
that I am not to go out to any such
entertainment more than one or two evenings
a week. And I must try to get a good
walk every day. N. B. Must learn to skate this
winter if we get any ice.

Mom: Must indeed now myself to devote my pleasure
ground to such pastimes ~~to~~ ~~more~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~ as will
bring health of body & refreshment of mind to myself & others.